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Annual Report

on the

Sanitary Condition
of the Thorne Rural
District . for 1939

By

J. M. TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

THORNE

W. WRIGLEY & SON, PRINTERS, MARKET PLACE

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*To the Chairman and Members of the
Thorne Rural District Council*

Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions in circular 2067, dated July 19th, 1940, the Annual Report for 1939 is curtailed as far as possible.

Only those tables and figures which are essential for continuity of records, are given.

In brief, the birth rate at 20.4 per 1,000 population is slightly higher than in 1938, when it was 19.45.

The adjusted death rate at 12.76 is higher; the rate for 1938 being 10.83.

In spite of this, the number of deaths in three of the main groups, heart disease, cancer and tuberculosis, shows a decrease.

Infantile mortality at 77.4 is also higher, the rate for 1938 being 61.9. This persistently high mortality rate has been discussed fully in previous reports.

The number of scarlet fever cases was less, and diphtheria showed a big drop to 70 from the previous year's high total of 131. Nevertheless diphtheria must be regarded as being endemic in the district.

Yours obediently,

J. M. TAYLOR

15th October, 1940

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE THORNE RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1939

General Statistics relating to the Rural District

The Rural District comprises five civil parishes, and has an area of 38,419 acres.

The Registrar-General gives two estimates of the resident population for the year 1939.

The estimate which is strictly comparable with past years is 30,790, and is to be used for calculating the birth rate.

The second estimate is 30,670, to be used for calculation of the death rate, and rates of incidence of infectious diseases.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1939, according to the rate books, was 7,141.

The Rateable Value of the district is £106,282.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £401.

Vital Statistics

Births

The estimate of population supplied by the Registrar-General for calculating the birth rate is 30,790.

The total number of births during 1939 was 629.

Of these 337 were males and 292 were females.

Legitimate births numbered 593.

Of these legitimate births 317 were males and 276 females.

Illegitimate births numbered 36, 20 being males and 16 females.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 20·4.

The birth rate per 1,000 of the population for England is 15·0.

The total number of stillbirths was 26.

Of these 14 were males and 12 females; and all were legitimate.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 39·6.

The stillbirth rate for the district per 1,000 population is 0·84.

The stillbirth rate for England per 1,000 population is 0·59.

Deaths

The total number of Deaths during 1939 was 295.

Of these 169 were males and 126 females.

The estimate of population to be used for calculation of the death rate is 30,670.

The actual or crude death rate for the district is 9.6 per 1,000 population.

The Registrar-General again supplies a comparability factor of 1.33.

The adjusted death rate is 12.76.

The death rate for England is 12.1.

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year

The total number was 49.

Of these 32 were males and 17 females.

31 males and 16 females were legitimate.

1 male and 1 female were illegitimate.

The death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births is 77.4.

The number of total births used in making this estimate is 633.

The death rate for England is 50.

The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births is 78.7.

The death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births is 55.5.

The following table gives the Infantile Death Rate for the last five years :—

1935	.....	83.9	per 1,000	births
1936	.....	78.5	"	"
1937	.....	92.4	"	"
1938	.....	61.9	"	"
1939	.....	77.4	"	"

The main registered causes of infantile deaths may be classified as follows :

Premature births	.....	.....	11
Broncho-pneumonia	.....	.....	11
Gastro-enteritis	.....	.....	8
Congenital Abnormality	.....	.....	4
Marasmus	.....	.....	4
Congenital Syphilis	.....	.....	2
Septic Infections	.....	.....	2
Lobar Pneumonia	.....	.....	1
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	1
Hæmorrhagic diseases of new-born	.....	.....	1

Twelve of the infantile deaths occurred outside the district.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 27

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 4

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 4

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 10

DEATHS FROM Puerperal CAUSES:

From Sepsis, none

Other causes, 1

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 total (live and still) births is 1.5.

The corresponding rate for England is 2.82.

The death rate from puerperal causes per 1,000 live births is 1.5.

The corresponding rate for England is 2.93

Unemployment

At the end of December 1939 there were 909 persons in the district registered as wholly unemployed.

Of these 743 were men

88 were women

11 were boys

67 were girls

This compares with the figures 1,356 wholly unemployed at the end of 1938.

Causes of Death in the Thorne Rural District, as supplied by the Registrar-General

Causes of Death	M	F
All causes	169	126
Measles	3	1
Whooping Cough	1	3
Diphtheria	4	3
Influenza	5	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	0
Syphilis	2	1
General Paralysis of the insane, etc.	2	0
Cancer	12	15
Diabetes	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	10	9
Heart Disease	35	29
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	6
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	3	0
Diarhoea (under 2 years)	4	6
Appendicitis	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	10	4
Other Puerperal Diseases	0	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	16	6
Senility	2	6
Suicide	3	0
Other violence	16	2
Other defined diseases	12	10
Ill defined or not known	1	0

Notifiable Diseases during the Year (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	35	9	0
Diphtheria	70	63	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	14	12	0
Pneumonia	27	0	0
Erysipelas	11	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	0	2

The following table gives a summary of the Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum) notified during the year, and arranged in age periods:

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica
Age Periods						
0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	2	1	—	—	—	—
3	6	5	—	—	—	—
4	3	—	1	—	—	—
5	18	40	2	—	—	—
10	4	11	3	—	—	—
15	—	6	4	4	4	1
25	2	6	4	—	7	—
35	—	1	5	3	3	—
45	—	—	8	3	—	1
65	—	—	—	1	—	—
And upwards	35	70	27	11	14	2

Diphtheria

The 70 cases were distributed amongst the parishes as follows:—

	No. of Cases
Thorne	23
Stainforth	37
Hatfield	10
Sykehouse	0
Fishlake	0

They occurred during the year as follows:

		No. of Cases
January	....	5
February	....	7
March	....	11
April	....	1
May	....	5
June	....	5
July	....	12
August	....	6
September	....	4
October	....	6
November	....	8
December	....	0

The Diphtheria case rate for the district works out at 2.2 per 1,000 population, whereas the rate for England is 1.14.

The Scarlet Fever case rate for the district is 1.1 per 1,000 population, whereas England's rate is 1.89.

Measles

Under provisional regulations which came into force on October 23rd, 1939, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable diseases.

Between that date and the end of the year, 464 cases of measles and 4 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. If the order had come into force a week or two earlier, the number of notified cases of measles would have been nearly double.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Of the 14 cases notified, 12 were treated in Edenfield Nursing Home, Doncaster, under arrangements made by the West Riding County Council.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations 1917

No vaccinations under these regulations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified during the year, also of the deaths, arranged in age periods:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5	1	3	4	1	0	0	1	0
15	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	0
25	4	5	1	1	0	1	0	1
35	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
45	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
And upwards	65	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
		9	14	8	4	4	3	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925

No case has been notified relating to a Tuberculous employee in the milk trade, and therefore no occasion has arisen either for action under articles 3, 5 and 6, or under section 62, Public Health Act, 1925, to remove a Tuberculous patient to hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

CASES:

Notified	Treated at home	Treated in Hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	1	0	1	0	0	0

If any medical practitioner wishes to have a case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum treated in hospital, all he has to do is to apply to the County Medical Officer who will arrange for the treatment.

School Closures

There were no school closures during the year.

Water Supply

Two representative analyses of the water supplied to the district by the Thorne and District Water Company are as follows:—

Bacteriological Analysis.—“Presumptive Bacillus Coli: None in 100 ml. of water. The examination shows that this water is satisfactory according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health.”

Chemical Analysis:

			Grains per Gallon
Total solid matters	...	...	10'00
Chlorine (combined)	...	...	0'5
Nitrites	...	...	None
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	0'4
Free Ammonia	...	...	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0'0007
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	...	None
Total Hardness (Clark's Scale)	...	...	5'5
Temporary Hardness	...	...	1'5
Permanent Hardness	...	...	4'00
P.H. value	...	...	7'6

" This water is of high organic purity, soft, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Sewerage

Small extensions to the Council's sewers were carried out at the following places:—

Bloomhill Terrace, Moorends
North Common Lane, Moorends
Town End, Hatfield
Doncaster Road, Stainforth
Meadow Lane, Stainforth

Camping Sites

One licence has been granted under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. There are still 28 vans and sheds in the district.

Smoke Abatement

One complaint regarding nuisance from smoke was investigated. Observations were made, and the unsatisfactory conditions remedied.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Four Council Houses and 25 other houses were found to be infested with Bed Bugs. All were treated effectively with insecticides.

SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT

Mr. B. Woodley and Mr. Wm. Bell report as follows:

Dairies and Cowsheds, etc.

153 Wholesale Traders on the Register.

72 Retail Traders on the Register.

All Cowsheds are inspected twice a year under Articles 1 and 25 Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Shop Acts 1934

150 Shops inspected.

Unsatisfactory conditions found in 6. All remedied.

Bakehouses

9 Bakehouses on the Register.

All inspected during the year.

Slaughter Houses

13 Licensed Slaughter Houses on the Register.

Common Lodging Houses

3 on Register.

All kept in satisfactory condition.

Canal Boats

188 on Register.

14 Inspected.

184 Boats in use.

Factories Act 1937

74 Factories in district.

House Scavenging

This is done by contract in the parishes of Thorne, Stainforth and Hatfield.

It has been done satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation in the District

No. of Box Closets, 168.

No. of Privies with Covered Middens, 992.

No. of Water Closets, 5,228.

There were 32 conversions from box closets and privy middens to water closets during the year.

Nuisances

Total number of Inspections during 1939, 95.

Total number of Nuisances during 1939, 86.

Total number of Nuisances abated during 1939, 80.

Meat Inspection

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	703	304	24	2368	1941
Number inspected	703	304	24	2368	1941
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	3	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	5	nil	2	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	0.285%	1.66%	nil	0.211%	0.206%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	49	21	nil	nil	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.96%	6.908%	nil	nil	1.288%

Swimming Baths and Pools

There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in Hatfield parish.

During the season, three samples of water were taken monthly, and sent for analysis to the County Laboratory at Wakefield.

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during 1938

1	State Aided	.....	.....	.....	.....	none
	(a) by the Local Authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	none
	(b) by Private Enterprise	none
	(Public Utility Societies, etc.)

2	Without State Aid	22
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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	46
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	.....	.....	53
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
	Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
	Caravans	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
4	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.....	.....	.....	.....	25

2. Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	47
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(a) By owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(a) By owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
2 Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
(d)—Proceedings under sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil
2 Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:*

(a)—1	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.....	.....	nil
2	Number of families dwelling therein	.....	.....	nil
3	Number of persons dwelling therein	.....	.....	nil
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.....	.....	nil
(c)—1	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	.....	nil
2	Number of persons concerned in such cases	.....	.....	nil
(d)—	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.....	.....	nil

